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Committees
Economic Development, Small
Business and Regulatory Reform VC
Families and Human Services VC
Government Operations
Health Policy

The Jacobs Report

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PARTIAL BIRTH BAN VOTE LOOMS

Senate Republican leaders hinted this week that a vote on the citizen initiative that defines when life begins could be brought before the full Senate this week, possibly as soon as Wednesday.

The Constitution requires the Legislature to take a vote on a citizen initiative within 40 session days of the Secretary of State giving the verified initiative petition to the Legislature, but it appears GOP lawmakers want to vote on the proposal before they leave for their summer recess.

House Republican leadership confirmed that a House vote on the initiative will be held in June, although an actual vote date has not yet been set.

Right to Life started the citizen initiative after Governor Jennifer Granholm vetoed a bill that would have had the state recognizing life as beginning the moment any portion of a fetus passed through the vaginal wall. Current law accepts that an entity is given legal human rights after it takes its first breath.

Giving a fetus human rights when any part of it exits the mother would indirectly ban a rarely used late-term medical procedure known as partial-birth abortion.

The citizen initiative was placed on the Senate calendar on Tuesday. If neither chamber takes it up within 40 session days, the Constitution requires that the matter be put on the ballot for a public vote.

JACOBS TO HOST PANEL DISCUSSION FOR SENIORS AND CAREGIVERS

A panel discussion hosted by state Senator Gilda Z. Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) will include two panels of experts from the Institute of Gerontology at Wayne State University answering questions about:

- Estate Planning for seniors
- Senior physical fitness
- Older drivers
- Home safety for seniors
- Alzheimers
- Low vision rehabilitation

Joining Senator Jacobs will be state representatives Aldo Vagnozzi (D-Farmington Hills), Paul Condino (D-Southfield) and Andy Meisner (D-Ferndale).

The event will take place Monday, June 7th, 1 PM – 3 PM, at Costock Center, 23600 Eleven Mile, Farmington Hills. The panels are free to the public. Please call 313/577-2297 for more information.

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GOVERNOR GRANHOLM DESIGNATES COOL CITIES

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm today announced that 20 Cool Cities pilot projects will receive catalyst grants of up to \$100,000 and will have access to more than \$100 million in state grants, loans, and other resources. The initiative, designed to help foster the development of vibrant, attractive cities and urban centers, is part of Governor Granholm's economic development plan for Michigan.

The projects receiving grants are located in Alpena, Bay City, Detroit, Ferndale, Flint, Grand Rapids, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Marquette, Port Huron, Portland, Saginaw, Saugatuck, Sault Ste. Marie, Traverse City, Warren, and Ypsilanti.

In Ferndale, the Ferndale Downtown Development Authority would use the catalyst grant to expand the BUILD Program, which offers a 20 percent reimbursement for exterior building improvements to properties within the downtown area. Additional Cool City funding would enable up to five properties to be added to the program.

"Building vibrant, energetic cities is essential to attracting jobs, people, and opportunity to our state," said Granholm. "If Michigan is to be competitive in the 21st century economy, we have to attract new businesses and retain the highly-educated, talented young people who are crucial to building and sustaining businesses in today's global marketplace. I'm thrilled about the potential of these projects and the positive impact they will have on their communities and the economic vitality of our state."

Each grant recipient will receive a catalyst grant of up to \$100,000, as well as access to a "resource toolbox" that includes more than 75 of the state's community improvement grants, loan programs, and assistance programs. Together, this "resource toolbox" and the catalyst grants leverage millions of existing dollars that are now being strategically directed to revitalization projects that present the best opportunity for success.

"One of the most exciting aspects of the Cool Cities grant selection process is that it involved a historic level of collaboration at both the state and local level," said David Hollister, Director of the Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG). "Whether you are talking to a member of one of the 143 cities with a local Cool City Advisory Group or a state team member from one of the 14 participating departments, people agree that this initiative has demonstrated an unprecedented level of teamwork and cooperation."

One hundred and fifty-one project applications from 112 Michigan cities were submitted for the Cool Cities pilot program. A multi-agency team reviewed each project, looking for those that demonstrated close partnerships with existing community organizations and the private sector and offered plans for creating large-scale neighborhood or community improvement.

The projects not designated as part of this pilot program have been invited to attend an educational and training session in Lansing in August. They will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from the DLEG, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), and the 14 participating state departments to discuss how they can improve their applications for the next round of grants and determine what other resources might be available to them from the state's resource toolbox.

All Michigan legislation can be tracked at <http://www.legislature.michigan.gov/>.

State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14th Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

Constituents of the 14th District may contact Senator Jacobs at sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.

This newsletter is produced in single-space form in order to save paper and transmission costs.